Adverse effect on education

404. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of higher education is getting adversely affected or likely to be affected due to increasing intervention of the Ministry of Finance; and

(b) what effective steps Government propose to take to maintain quality of higher education, its standard and all the pre-requisite parameters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, a number of steps have been taken by the Commission for promoting excellence and quality. These include framing of regulations regarding minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers in universities and colleges, conduct of National Eligibility Test for appointment of teachers, emphasis on accreditation of the educational institutions by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), conferment of autonomous status to colleges, performance linked funding to the universities and conferring the status of universities with potential for excellence to certain selected universities. Besides above, the UGC also has a proposal to start certain schemes like identifying and funding of Colleges of Excellence; networking of universities and colleges; provision of computers to all the colleges, etc.

UGC grants for building construction projects

405. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision of grant of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively from University Grants Commission and State Government for building construction projects of universities and colleges;